

NJDOT Bureau of Research
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title:	<i>Mapping of New Jersey Economically Distressed Areas(EDA) to Assist with ARRA Project Selection</i>		
RFP NUMBER: 7188977	NJDOT RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER: Eric Powers		
TASK ORDER NUMBER: 12	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Christopher Titze		
Project Starting Date: 1/11/2010 Project Ending Date: 6/11/2010	Period Starting Date: 3/16/2010 Period Ending Date: 6/30/2010		

Task	% of Total	% of Task this quarter	% of Task to date	% of Total Complete
1. EDA Economic Indicator Data Collection and Organization	25%	5%	100%	25%
2. Development of EDA Methodology Assumptions	10%	45%	90%	10% %
3. EDA Identification	18%	35%	50%	10%
4. ARRA and ARRA 2 Project Mapping (Optional Task)	25%			
5. ARRA Project Overlay Analysis (Optional Task)	14%			
6. Final Report	9%	20%	30%	5%
TOTAL	100%	100%		50%

Project Objectives:

The objectives of this project is to:

Create maps and subsequent geodatabase (ArcGIS format) illustrating identified Economically Distressed Areas (EDA) within the State of New Jersey and their spatial relationship with existing ARRA projects.

Project Abstract:

This project will result in the creation of maps and subsequent geodatabase (ArcGIS format) illustrating identified Economically Distressed Areas (EDA) within the State of New Jersey and their spatial relationship with existing ARRA projects. Additionally, a technical memorandum discussing geodatabase inputs, methodology assumptions, and guidance from FHWA will be provided. The purpose of this exercise is to assist NJDOT perform a self-assessment of EDAs at the municipal or other regional and/or sub-regional level, and use these findings to support the Recovery Act requirement of giving priority to projects that are located in an economically distressed area.

1. Progress this quarter by task:

Task 1:

- Researched primary EDA indicators and special needs provisions detailed by FHWA Supplemental Guidance on the Determination of Economically Distressed Areas Under the Recovery Act, issued 24th August 2009
- Primary EDA determination criteria from FHWA's HEPGIS for the state of NJ at the county level was considered as a starting point for EDA determination at the county level.
- Collected Unemployment and Per-capita Income data from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- Created statewide map of primary EDA determination criteria at the county level to match FHWA's HEPGIS data.
- Re-created Sub-County EDA map from data received from FHWA's Matt Zeller through Eric.
- Created statewide sub-county EDA maps, MPO level sub-county maps, and countywide sub-county EDA maps for counties which had sub-county level EDA areas.
- Researched NJ department of emergency management and FEMA for declarations of major disasters or emergencies in the 18 months prior to the EDA determination date.
- Verified BRAC documentation to check for major base closure and realignments in NJ .
- Determined CPM and local aid projects as being located in or outside an EDA at both the county and sub-county level.
- Researched business closing data by accessing New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development website on how business closures are monitored by the State of NJ. In correspondence with NJLWD staff, it was recognized that they do not track actual business closures and only WARN notices are indication of business closings albeit their nature of being threatened closures than actual closures.
- Geocoded WARN notices and created a map with locations of threatened business closures with graduated symbology showing the magnitude of affected workforce and overlaid them with existing EDAs at the sub-county level.
- WARN data was analyzed to determine whether a business closure was already within an EDA or outside an EDA.

Task 2:

- Contacted New Jersey State Department of Labor and Workforce Development for detailed datasets below county level. If the data was made available, there will be nondisclosure issues when it comes to including them in publicly available reports.
- Contacted a commercial vendor about the zip code level data and data sources to apply for a detailed spatial level analysis.
- Began researching sphere of influence factors for determined EDA areas.

Task 3:

- Identified EDA areas at the county and sub-county levels throughout the State by utilizing the mapping program.
- Identified EDA's are identified on map work products.

Task 4:

- No activity.

Task 5:

- No activity.

Task 6:

- Began writing final report and tech brief for review and edits.
- Incorporated comments and edits into tech brief and final report.

2. Proposed activities for next quarter by task

Task 1:

- No activity anticipated.

Task 2:

- No activity anticipated.

Task 3:

- No activity anticipated.

Task 4:

- No activity anticipated.

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Task 5:

- No activity anticipated.

Task 6:

- No activity anticipated.

3. List of deliverables provided in this quarter by task (product date)

Submitted Deliverables:

- Statewide and county-wide county level and sub-county level EDA maps.
- Sub-county Maps
- Maps for MPO regions
- Sub-county EDA Maps
- WARN Notification Map
- Technical Memorandum outlining the deliverable submissions, development methodology, and utilized data sources.

Total Project Budget	\$74,901.64
Contract Amount:	\$74,901.64
Total Project Expenditure to date	\$39,707.00
% of Total Project Budget Expended	53%